Cancer Vaccine

*296. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a multi use vaccine to fight different forms of cancer is likely to hit the market shortly; and

(b) if so, the name of the vaccine, its price and the types of cancer to be treated by this vaccine?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), at present there are two approaches for development of cancer vaccines-(i) preventive (ii) immuno-therapeutic. Vaccines such as Heptitis 'B' virus and Human Papiloma Virus (HPV) vaccine which may prevent the infections that may cause liver cancer and cervical cancer respectively can be classified as preventive in nature. The immuno-therapeutic cancer vaccine may enhance the immunity in cancer patient and help in containing the disease. The Hepatitis 'B' vaccine is already available in the Indian market and HPV vaccine is undergoing clincial trails in. USA and other countries. Clinical trial of this vaccine is also likely to be undertaken in India. The immuno-therapeutic vaccines being developed in USA and other countries are in the developing stages and are required to undergo regulatory mechanisms preceding they could be put to human use. Further, such cancern vaccines developed by other countries are required to follow the regulatory mechanism of Drug Controller General of India {DCG(I)} before they could be used for cancer management in the country. There are no multi-use vaccines to fight different forms of cancer, which are likely to come in the market in India shortly.

Trade with USA

*297. DR. T SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's trade with US has increased steadily during the past five years;

(b) if so, whether in the first five months of this fiscal, India's exports to US are estimated at $ 5.47 billion against $ 5.02 billion are same period last year;

(c) whether India achieved share of 1 per cent of total US imports in 2002 and improved its ranking from being the 22nd largest supplier to the American market to the 19th largest supplier.

(d) if so, the incentives that Government have assured to the exporters; and

(e) to what extent, these assurances would improve exports?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir. India's merchandise trade with USA has steadily increased since 1998 to 2002 except in the year 2001 when it declined by 5.9% from the previous year.

(b) Yes, Sir. In the first five months of fiscal year 2003-04, India's merchandise exports to USA are estimated at US $ 5.47 billion as compared to US $ 5.02 billion in the same period last year.

(c) Yes, Sir. India has achieved a share of 1.02% of total US merchandise imports in 2002 and was the 19th largest supplier to US market.

(d) and (e) The Government's efforts to expand Indo-US trade are a sustained and continous process. Besides, promoting India's export to USA in general and identifying products with good export potential, efforts are made to break into new areas Special emphasis is given to developing new and fast growing areas, such as information technology and biotechnology, promoting exports through participation in major trade shows and specific trade promotion events, apart from streamlining the information and data base. Close monitoring is done of important bilateral trade related issues in liaison with US Authorities.

Tea Industry in Assam

*298.'SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the tea industry in the country especially in Assam has been faced with the worst ever crisis resulting